

Everything We Need for Godliness

2 Peter 1:1-4

March 15, 2015

Intro to Book:

The Righteousness of God

His Divine Power

Life and Godliness

Paul Tripp has written:

Now I want to nitpick over the two words 'life and godliness.' If Peter had only written, "God has given me everything I need for life," we would tend to add in the word 'eternal' and say, "Of course I know this. God has given me everything I need so that someday I'll have eternal life." But that's not what Peter is talking about. Peter is talking about the 'here and now', which is why he uses the term 'godliness.'

What is godliness? It's a God-honoring life between the time I come to Christ and the time I go home to be with Him. And Christ has already given me everything I need for it! Yes, we face the harsh realities of life in a fallen world, and yes, we still struggle with indwelling sin. But because of my relationship with Christ, I have been given a Warrior Spirit that lives inside of me. He fights on my behalf and enables me to produce good fruit: faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love ([2 Peter 1:5-7](#)).

This passage is describing the 'here and now' benefits of our salvation. Listen, it's not enough for us to believe in life after death - we need to start believing in life before death. If we understand our identity that we've been given in Christ, we can live filled with hope and courage. Christ has not just forgiven you. He has completely and fundamentally changed who you are, and because of that, you can live in a very new and different way.¹

Precious Promises

Hendriksen comments:

Although this statement lends itself to many interpretations, we ought to notice how precisely Peter has chosen his words. He says that we participate in God's nature, not in God's being. He has chosen the term *nature* because it indicates growth, development, and character. The expression *being*, by contrast, points to essence and substance. We can never participate in God's essence, for we are and remain human beings who have been created by God.²

Hendriksen explains further:

Peter borrows the term *divine nature* from the philosophical vocabulary of the Greeks. To refute his opponents (see 2: 1) he employs their terminology but gives the words a Christian meaning. Greek philosophers taught that man who is living in a corrupt world of physical pleasure must become like the gods. They advised their followers to share the divine nature. Peter resorts to using the same expression, "participate in the divine nature." But whereas the philosophers took their point of departure in man and claimed for him a share in the nature of the gods, Peter views our sharing of God's nature in the light of God's promises. "There is a world of difference between these two concepts. The first is humanistic and reflects the vaulted self-appraisal of natural man. The other is Christian and exalts the gracious provision of God. "³

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Gaebelein in Expositors Commentary says this regarding vs 4:

How does this participation come about? In at least two ways, this verse implies. First, the promises themselves have a purifying effect on the believer's life (cf. [1 John 3:3](#)). Second, conversion entails a definite break with the corruption caused by evil desire. The

¹ Paul Tripp, <http://www.paultripp.com/articles/posts/life-and-godliness>

² William Hendriksen, *New Testament Commentary, 2 Peter*, Baker, 2002, p248

³ *ibid*

NIV rendering "and escape the corruption" might better be translated "since you have escaped" in order to bring out the force of the aorist participle (*apophygontes*, "have escaped"). Thus, in coming to know God through Christ, the believer escapes the corruption of sin; and Christ renews and restores the image of God in him.⁴

⁴ Gaebelein, Frank E. *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*: Volume 12. 268. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, © 1981.

Home Study Guide

Monday: 2 Peter 1 What significant doctrines does Peter confirm in his salutation (vs 1)

Tuesday: Romans 4 How is Paul using the word “promise” here – what is he referring to?

Wednesday: 2 Chron 6 What is going on in this chapter. What does Solomon say about the goodness of God? Why is that significant?

Sunday's sermon will be "Make Every Effort" 2 Peter 1:5-11

Thursday: 1 Tim 4 Compare what Paul says about putting forth effort and what Peter says in next Sunday's text.

Friday: What are the virtues Paul speaks of here? How do these compare with the list in next Sunday's text?

Saturday: Gal 5 How does the Fruit of the Spirit compare with Tomorrow's text?

Memory: 2 Peter 1:10

Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall,

Prayer Items:

Family Catechism Study

[Westminster Shorter Catechism]

Q. 86. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace^a, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel^b.

[a]. Eph. 2:8-9; cf. Rom. 4:16 [b]. John 20:30-31; Gal. 2:15-16; Phil. 3:3-11

Faith is a saving **grace**!!!! Many will teach that believing is your contribution to the salvation process – now, it is true that you do the believing, but it is God who gives you the faith with which to believe. To construe it, as some do, faith would then become the one acceptable work to God and we save ourselves by believing. Faith is a saving grace, a gift of God, without which we could never be saved.

Faith in order to be saving faith also has a very particular object - Jesus Christ. Faith for faith's sake is not a saving virtue. It does not matter how hard you believe, if your faith is not in Jesus you are lost and will continue to be until you believe in Jesus. In the kids movie "Toy Story" Buzz never did become a real space ranger just because he believed it so intensely. The only object of faith powerful enough to turn you from guilty sinner to Son of God is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Believing in Jesus must be according to the Gospel. You cannot make up your own Jesus or try to diminish what the Bible reveals him to be. Believe in him as he is offered in the Gospel. Rest on him completely and the work which he finished for you!!

There are three aspects of saving faith. There is a body of truth that must be **known**. Secondly, that same body of information must be **embraced** as real and true. Then that truth must be **trusted** or rested in. Saving faith means that all your eggs are in Jesus' basket!